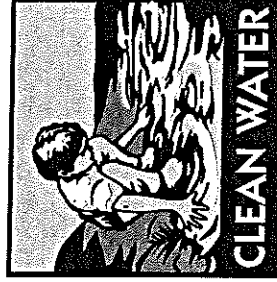
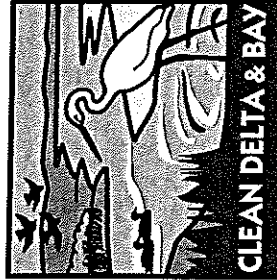


**Please Return Your Ballot Before
Friday, April 6th at 5:00 p.m.**

To be tabulated, Clean Water ballots MUST be
received by Friday, April 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

Additional Information

For additional information on the Contra Costa Clean Water
Program, its services, the proposed Clean Water fee, the
ballot proceeding or to obtain a copy of the Fee Report,
call: (925) 313-2360 or visit: www.cccleanwater.org

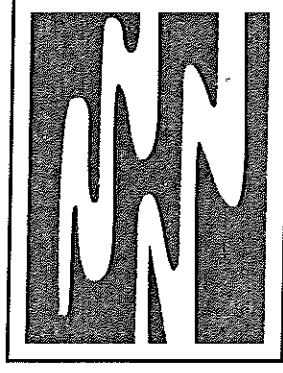


Para Ayuda En Español

Este infome contiene información sobre su propuesta
iniciativa de agua limpia. Es muy importante que entienda
el material. Busque la asistencia de alguien que puede
traducirlo para usted.



**Official
Ballot Guide**



CONTRA COSTA
CLEAN WATER
PROGRAM

**2012
Community Clean Water
Initiative**

**Please Return Your Ballot
Before Friday, April 6th at 5:00 p.m.**

Why Did You Receive This Ballot Guide and Official Ballot?

This ballot guide provides information about improving water quality in Contra Costa County through a proposed new Clean Water fee that will:

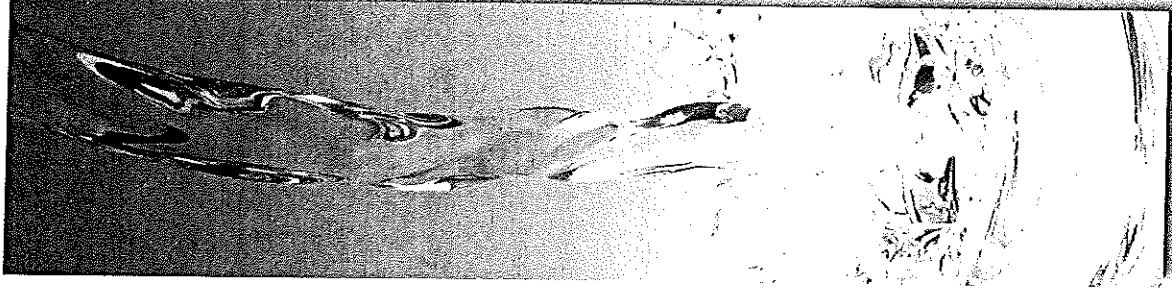
- Protect local sources of clean drinking water from contamination and pollution
- Remove harmful and dangerous pollutants, toxic chemicals, and potentially infectious bacteria and viruses from our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and Bay
- Capture, clean and use rainwater to irrigate local parks and landscaping. This "rainwater harvesting" will also decrease the impacts of polluted stormwater and urban runoff on our local creeks, lakes, the Delta and Bay
- Prevent illegal or toxic discharges from industrial and commercial properties
- Provide other clean water and pollution control services and facilities required by Federal and State clean water mandates
- Keep trash and pollution off our shorelines and out of our local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and Bay

The official ballot included with this ballot guide allows property owners to decide on this proposed "2012 Community Clean Water Initiative." Please read the information in this ballot guide and call the Clean Water Program at 925-313-2360 if you have any additional questions. Then complete the official ballot to vote on this initiative.

Protecting Clean Water

Each year, tons of harmful and dangerous pollutants, bacteria and trash are carried through our communities and enter local creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and Bay. As water drains from streets, parking lots, and lawns, pollutants are picked up and enter the drainage system through thousands of catch basins throughout Contra Costa County. From there, this polluted water flows through a system of pipes, open channels and creeks into the Delta and Bay.

The Contra Costa Clean Water Program is composed of Contra Costa County, all of its nineteen cities and towns, and the Contra Costa County Flood Control & Water Conservation District. These twenty-one agencies are working cooperatively to prevent water pollution, but much more needs to be done to protect and improve local water quality. Also, new and expanded State and Federal clean water mandates require local communities to pay large fines if creeks, reservoirs, lakes, the Delta and Bay are not cleaned up. These are the reasons the Clean Water Program is proposing the 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative to improve local water quality and protect our communities from toxic and dangerous pollutants.



Local Clean Water Bodies in North/Central County Communities

If this measure is approved, the following local creeks and water bodies will benefit from clean water services and projects:

- Alhambra Creek
- Briones Reservoir
- Carquinez Shorelines
- Franklin Creek
- Galindo Creek
- Grayson Creek
- Heather Farms Lake
- Indian Creek
- Las Trampas Creek
- Mallard Reservoir
- Martinez Reservoir
- Mitchell Creek
- Mount Diablo Creek
- Pacheco Creek
- Peyton Slough
- Pine Creek
- Sacramento River and Shorelines
- San Pablo Reservoir
- Suisun Bay, Shorelines and Wetlands
- Tice Creek
- Walnut Creek

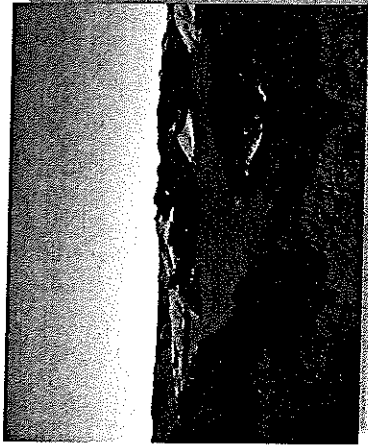
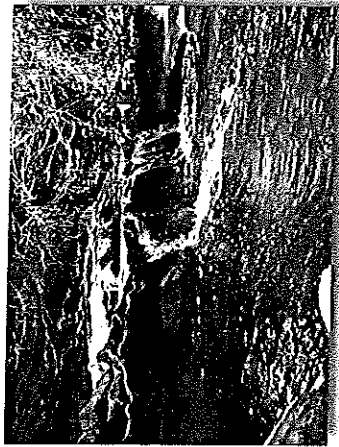


Photo by Rita Xavier

Briones Reservoir



Las Trampas Creek

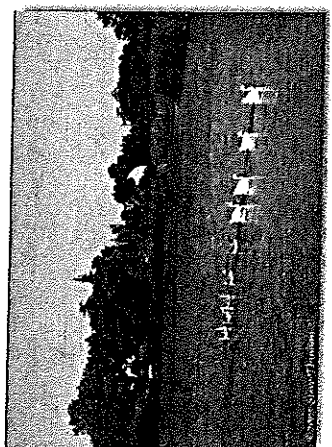


Photo by Steve Thurman

Heather Farms Lake

Including Clayton, Concord, Martinez, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek

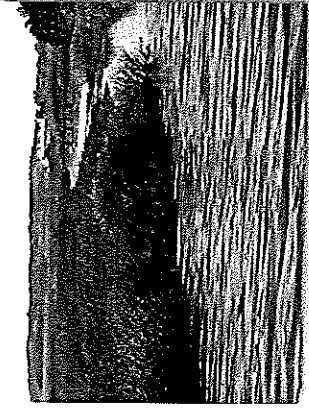


Photo by Ted Thamlter

Alhambra Creek Meets Bay



Marsh Near Industry in Central County

Strict Fiscal Safeguards

The proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative includes strict fiscal safeguards to ensure the proceeds are used only for local clean water and pollution control services:

- All funds shall ONLY be used for local clean water and pollution control services in your community
- 100% of all funding received will be used in the community where it was generated (i.e. 100% Return-to- Source)
- An Independent Citizens Oversight Committee will ensure all funds are spent properly
- Conduct Mandatory Annual Audits
- The Clean Water fee will expire after 10 years

Information About Your Proposed Clean Water Fee

The proposed annual Clean Water fee for your property is printed on the official ballot included with this ballot guide. The total amount that would be raised County-wide by the proposed 2012 Community Clean Water Initiative for fiscal year 2012-13 is approximately \$8+ million. The proposed Clean Water fee is based on the cost of clean water and pollution control services and facilities needed to improve water quality and comply with federal and state mandates. The proposed Clean Water fee is calculated based on the average impervious surface (surfaces not permeable by water, such as driveways, pavement and buildings) for properties of different types and sizes. For example, properties with large impervious areas send more polluted water into the storm drain system than property types without impervious surfaces, such as open space.

The proposed annual Clean Water fee can only be increased by the consumer price index, or two percent, whichever is less. This will help ensure that Clean Water fee revenues keep pace with the cost of operating and maintaining our clean water and water pollution control services and facilities in future years. For more information, contact the Clean Water Program and/or review the Clean Water Fee Report available from the Program. Moreover, if approved, the Clean Water fee will be levied annually for a period not to exceed 10 years.



Trash in Creek



Device used to Capture Trash in Water Runoff

Balloting Process

You may return your ballot in the following ways:

- A) Mail your ballot to the address shown on the enclosed ballot return envelope so that it is **received on or before April 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.**
- B) Hand-deliver your ballot to the Clerk of the Board of the Contra Costa County Supervisors at 651 Pine Street, 1st Floor, Room 106, Martinez, California so that it is **received on or before April 6, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.**

If you have questions about the Clean Water fee or the proposed clean water services, lose your official ballot, require a replacement official ballot, need a proportional official ballot so you can vote your share of your property separately from other owners, or want to change your vote, call the Clean Water Program at (925) 313-2360. The Clean Water fee shall not be imposed if, upon the conclusion of the tabulation, official ballots submitted in opposition to the fee exceed the official ballots submitted in favor of the fee. Failure of any person to receive a ballot(s) shall not invalidate the proceedings.